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EGYPTIAN MOSLEM WOMEN'S SOCIETY HEAD
ATTACKS VIENNA PEACE CONGRESS

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[Comment: Among the Egyptian delegates to the Vienna Peace Congress last December was al-Hajjah Zaynab al-Ghazali, president of the Jama'at as-Savvyidat al-Muslimat (Moslem Women's Society). Her attending the Congress and her speech, interviews, and statements at Vienna [] caused considerable surprise, in view of the fact that she represents a very conservative Moslem religious organization.

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The Cairo daily newspaper al-Ahram, which on 12 December 1952 attacked the Peace Congress, accusing it of being a Communist front [] published an article on 10 January 1953 entitled, "I Was Persecuted by Peace Partisans for My Adherence to Religion," by Zaynab al-Ghazali. The article reported on what she saw at the Vienna Peace Congress. A summary of the article follows.]

I (al-Hajjah Zaynab al-Ghazali) was invited to attend the Congress by Mrs Siza Nabrawi, one of the Peace Partisans in Egypt. The executive committee of the Moslem Women's Society, after careful consideration, decided to participate in that Congress with a view to expressing the society's viewpoint in the peace problem and discovering the true motives of the Peace Partisans in Egypt.

In Vienna, I was elected to the executive board of the Congress at the first session. Great interest was shown in me from the start.

Later on, I learned that the Peace Partisans thought that I was on their side. In 5 days, I gave 21 interviews, which were all published in the papers. All of these interviews repudiated the allegations of the Peace Partisans. The executive board of the Congress, however, was annoyed by my activities and started to oppose me. Hunting for friends, I found five among the various Arab delegations, who gave me full support.

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I got in touch with many Moslem representatives from the "People's Democratic Republics" in order to acquaint myself with their living conditions. They cautiously furnished me with a great deal of information. They spoke to me about the barbarity, deterioration, and atheism of Communism and of the miserable life people were leading behind the Iron Curtain. Soviet spies have unfortunately stolen the notes in which I recorded that information.

However, I can recollect the following:

1. A Moslem girl is permitted to marry a Christian, and a Christian girl can marry a Moslem. In case the girl's father shows a sign of protest, he is immediately put in jail.
2. Moslem, Christian, and Jewish youngsters are allowed to renounce their respective religions and declare apostasy.
3. Apostasy is prevalent and cannot be contested.
4. Any Moslem, Christian, or Jew is allowed to offer prayers. Their respective religious leaders, however, are precluded from criticizing atheism. Imams [Moslem priests] are even asked to interpret the "freedom of worship" passage in the Qur'an to mean that no restrictions are placed on those who wish to become atheists or who wish to renounce their religion.
5. Atheists in Communist countries are the ones who occupy important positions and wield great influence.
6. People in Communist countries are like a flock of sheep. Their lives are extremely monotonous.

The above are a few of the many examples which my stolen notes contained. I am certain that people living behind the Iron Curtain would not return to their countries if they had a chance to escape.

We should hunt Peace Partisans wherever they may be. Peace is a sacred word which should not be entrusted to them.

I believe that the interests of Communism would be served by the eradication of Islam and Christianity. Christians and Moslems should caution these deluded people [the Egyptian Peace Partisans] about Communist intentions and should urge them to retain their religious beliefs, because the conspiracy is planned against all faiths.

Although I believe that there is a strong tie between Communism and Zionism, I advise the people of the Torah [the Jews] who are neither Zionists nor Communists to protect their faith also.

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